

Claims

- [c1] 1. In a method of playing a conventional or variant game of blackjack between a dealer and a player where the player is dealt two initial cards and the dealer is dealt a single initial card (the "three initial cards"), an improvement comprising the steps of:
- (a) allowing the player to place a side bet;
 - (b) paying or collecting the side bet in accordance with a pre-established set of rules which cover all possible combinations of the three initial cards.
- [c2] 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the pre-established set of rules provides a winning side bet for the player in one or more of the following circumstances:
- (a) the sum of the three initial cards is greater than or equal to 19, but not greater than 21;
 - (b) the sum of the three initial cards is equal to 21 and the player's cards are all of one suit;
 - (c) the three initial cards are sequential, whether or not they are of different suits; and
 - (d) the three initial cards are the same card, whether or not they are of different suits.
- [c3] 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the game is played

with at least three decks and wherein the pre-established set of rules provides a winning side bet for the player in one or more of the following circumstances

(a) the three initial cards are sequential and of the same suit; and

(b) the three initial cards are the same card and of the same suit.

[c4] 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the only winning circumstance where the three initial cards are sequential are if the cards are 6, 7 and 8.

[c5] 5. The method of claim 3 or 4 wherein the only winning circumstance where the three initial cards are the same are if the cards are all 7.

[c6] 6. The method of claim 1 where in the pre-established set of rules provides winning side bets in accordance with Table 1 or Table 2.

[c7] 7. A method of playing blackjack or 21, comprising the steps of:

- (a) dealing two initial cards to a player and a single initial card to a dealer (the "three initial cards");
- (b) allowing the player to place a side bet;
- (c) paying or collecting the side bet in accordance with a pre-established set of rules which cover all possible

combinations of the three initial cards; and
(d) continuing with the blackjack game.

- [c8] 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the pre-established set of rules provides winning side bets in accordance with Table 1 or Table 2.